(b) Setting up of a gas terminal at Usar would depend on the availability of adequate gas in the Western offshore region, and on the techno-economic feasibility of the project.

Production of Raw Petroleum Coke

2160. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public sector refineries at Barauni, Bongaigaon, Digboi and Gauhati jointly have the capacity to produce Raw Petroleum Coke @2.90 lakh tonne per annum whereas actual production has never crossed 2.34 Lakh tonne, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that for utilising the total installed capacity of Calcination Units, there is a demand for about 4.60 Lakh TPA of raw petroleum coke;

(c) if so, what is the allocation made by Indian Oil Corporation alongwith the reason for the short-fall and discrimination in supply of raw material to Public Sector Units and those in SSI sector;

(d) whether Government have any long-term plan for augmenting the supply of Raw Petroleum Coke to ensure optimum urilisation of the installed Calcination capacity in the country;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c): Production of Raw Petroleum Coke (RPC) in the four refineries was over 3 Lakh tonnes in 1989-90. Currently the production has been lower due to reduced availability of Assam crude. After meeting the requirement of captive calcining units of Public Sector Undertakings the balance available quantity of Raw Petroleum Coke is allotted to the recognised Calcining units on equitable basis prorated to their licenced/assessed capacity.

(d) to (f): RPC is produced only in Coking units and as such is a by-product. There are plans to increase cooking units capacity alongwith expansion of Bongaigaon Refinery and setting up of refinery at Numaligarh.

Supply of Gas to Fertilizer Plants

2161. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gas Authority of India Ltd. propose to delay the supply of gas by two years to the upcoming fertilizer plants along the HBO. pipeline in the private sector;

(b) is so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is its likely overall impact on the economic *via-bility* of the upcoming fertilizer plants as also on the existing fertilizer units?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Decline in Prices of Oil

2162. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the world oil prices have registered a fall;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of fall in the oil prices in the major oil markets; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to tie-up the oil purchases from both spot markets and for term contracts for 1992-93 with dip in the oil prices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Oil prices have fluctuated both upwards and downwards.

(c) Prices under term contracts as well as in spot purchases are market related and are linked to the international prices at the time of supplies. Spot purchases are made on a month to month basis whereas term contracts are generally for

a year and are renewed at the time of expiry of contract period.

Bids for Oil and Gas Exploration

2163. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of oil firms that have responded to the notice for fourth round of bidding for oil and gas exploration in the country; and

(b) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) One bid has been received to-date. The last date for receipt of bids is 15th April, 1992.

(b) Does not arise.

Complaints against M/s. Mangalam Flames

2164. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL ALIAS MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that maximum limit of consumers has not been prescribed for an LPG distributor;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the number of complaints received against M/s. Mangalam Flames, Amroha (U.P.) during the last two years along with the nature of complaints;

(d) what action Government have taken on each of the complaints so far;

(e) whether it is also a fact that officials of oil companies are not taking strict action against the erring distributors; and

(f) if so, what action Government puopose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) Ceilings have been prescribed on the number of refills in a month.

(c) and (d) Four complaints regarding delay in release of connection/DBC, underweight cylinders and delay in supply of refills were received. After investigation by the IOC it was found that no action was necessary against the distributor.

(e) and (f) Appropriate action is taken against erring distributor under Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

Payment of Royalty by ONGC to State Governments

2165. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Business and Political Observer dated 18th February 1992 under the caption "ONGC may be forced to default on royalty payments"; and

(b) if so, what is Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Commission has informed that it has not defaulted in payment of any statutory charges due to the State Governments or Central Government.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

दिल्ली में रसोई गैस के वितरक

2166. **श्री अनन्तराय देव शंकर दवे:** क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) दिल्ली में जन संख्या की वृद्धि को देखते हुए सरकार ने पिछली जून से दिल्ली में रसोई गैस के कितने वितरक नियुक्त किये हैं;

(ख) उनके चयन के लिये क्या कसौटी अपनायी गयी थी;